



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/686,966	10/16/2003	Kentaro Toyama	MCS-044-03 (301914.02)	8085

27662 7590 05/02/2006

MICROSOFT CORPORATION
C/O LYON & HARR, LLP
300 ESPLANADE DRIVE
SUITE 800
OXNARD, CA 93036

EXAMINER

LEWIS, CHERYL RENE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2167

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/686,966	TOYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Cheryl Lewis	2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 and 21-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 20 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/25/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-26 are presented for examination.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claim 20 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Barros (Publication No: US 2004/0119759 A1 filed October 22, 1001, hereinafter Barros).
5. Regarding Claim 1, Barros teaches graphic-information flow method and system for visually analyzing patterns and relationships.

The method and associated system for graphic-information flow method and system for visually analyzing patterns and relationships as taught or suggested by Barros includes:

Interchangeable panels that are used for determining query constraints and viewing query results of a database of media that is tagged with geographic location information (paragraphs 0050-0128); and media dots that are aligned with a grid that encompasses the geographic location information of the media in the database (paragraphs 0050-0128), wherein media dots indicated how many media are associated with a grid location on the map (paragraphs 0050-0128).

6. Regarding Claim 2, Barros teaches a user interface that shows how query constraints and query results are related through cursor interaction (paragraphs 0050-0128).

7. Regarding Claims 3 and 4, the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1 and 2 presented above. They are therefore rejected as set forth above.

8. Regarding Claim 5, Barros teaches map related to the map where a database item was capture (paragraphs 0050-0128); timeline related to a significant event (paragraphs 0050-0128); person related to a database item (paragraphs 0050-0128); keyword (paragraphs 0050-0128); and media type (paragraphs 0050-0128).

9. Regarding Claim 6, Barros teaches display panels show the results that are jointly specified by one or more constraint panels (paragraphs 0050-0128).

10. Regarding Claim 7, Barros teaches float mode (paragraphs 0050-0128)

Art Unit: 2167

11. Regarding Claim 8, Barros teaches a full view at high resolution (paragraphs 0050-0128); a list panel as list of small thumbnails; and a preview panel (paragraphs 0050-0128).
12. Regarding Claim 9, Barros teaches interchangeable panels (paragraphs 0050-0128).
13. Regarding Claim 10, Barros teaches one or more periphery windows means (paragraphs 0050-0128).
14. Regarding Claim 11, Barros teaches the number of query results is limited to a given number (paragraphs 0050-0128).
15. Regarding Claim 12, Barros teaches the number is specified by a user (paragraphs 0050-0128).
16. Regarding Claims 13-19 and 21-26, the limitations of these claims have been noted in the rejection of claims 1, 2, and 5-12 presented above. They are therefore rejected as set forth above.

NAME OF CONTACT

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone

Art Unit: 2167

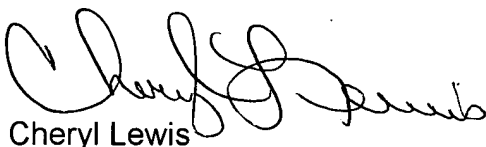
number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cheryl Lewis
Patent Examiner
April 28, 2006